

Understanding Your Water Rate

Regional Water Supply Service



Capital Regional District | 2026

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CRD Integrated Water Services operates the Regional Water Supply Service water supply areas and reservoirs, water treatment and transmission systems, and supplies drinking water to approximately 430,000 residents across the region through municipal or CRD water distribution systems.

The Regional Water Supply Service provides bulk water at a wholesale rate to municipalities, which operate water distribution systems that deliver water directly to customers across Greater Victoria.

The Regional Water Supply also services the following First Nations:

- Songhees
- x̱sepsum (Kosapsum)
- Sc̱ianew (Beecher Bay)
- ṮSou-ke

What is the wholesale water rate?

The CRD charges a wholesale water rate to municipalities that then set retail water rates; the prices residents pay for water.

The 2026 CRD Regional Water Supply wholesale water rate is \$0.93 per cubic metre, a 7.91% increase over the 2025 rate.

The average annual wholesale water cost for a household on a CRD water system is currently around \$222, but actual amounts paid vary depending on municipal fees, usage rates, and the water system the property is connected to.

How is the wholesale water rate calculated?

The wholesale water rate is based on the cost to run the Regional Water Supply Service. Each year, the total amount needed to fund the service is divided by the estimated water demand. This ensures the rate covers the full cost of delivering the service.

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What does it pay for?

The costs of operating and maintaining the Regional Water Supply System are funded entirely through the sale of drinking water. This includes paying for upgrades, repairs, and replacements of aging infrastructure, as well as paying down debt from past major projects.

Operating costs are only expected to rise 1.6 per cent next year. However, a significant increase in capital spending is required to replace, upgrade and add capacity to the system in response to population growth and the effects of climate change.

The CRD's Regional Water Supply Master Plan A 30-year plan for the region's water supply calls for nearly \$2 billion in infrastructure spending, over 21 projects, to be funded through water rates and potential grants.

Why did the Regional Water Supply wholesale water rate increase in 2026?

The rate increase is necessary as a result of:

- Increases in operating expenses associated with water supply system operation, maintenance and repair costs.
- Annual capital funding and debt expenditures associated with on-going capital infrastructure upgrades and renewal and previous project funding requirements.
- The 2026 capital plan anticipates \$71.9 million in capital project investment including carry-forward projects from 2025, most of which are in-stream, multi-year projects such as the Goldstream Field Office building project, Transmission main upgrade projects, storage tank assessments and improvements, planning and implementation of the Regional Water Master Plan, and continuing dam safety-related projects.
- The Regional Water Supply Service becoming the direct service provider for seven First Nations.
- Accounting for the depreciation of existing system infrastructure.
- Agricultural water rate funding to support the Agricultural Water Rate of \$0.2105 per cubic metre.